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For Immediate Release

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IDENTITY THIEF SENTENCED TO 93 MONTHS IN PRISON

PHILADELPHIA - Charles McLaurin, 30, of Philadelphia, was sentenced today to 93 months in prison, including a two year mandatory minimum, for two separate identity theft and credit card fraud schemes in which he victimized, among others, retired New Jersey school teachers, and caused a total of approximately \$101,000 in losses, announced United States Attorney Laurie Magid. McLaurin's sentencing hearing began yesterday, March 5th, but had to be continued after the defendant decided not to return from a recess.

McLaurin was indicted for the first scheme in August 2006 and for a separate scheme in August 2007. The cases were consolidated and he pleaded guilty to all charges on December 10, 2008, including conspiracy, six counts of access device fraud, three counts of identity theft, and three counts of aggravated identity theft. In one scheme, McLaurin led a group of identity thieves who used personal information stolen from employees of the Camden City (NJ) School District to apply for credit cards. Some of those victims were retired from teaching. None of the victims learned about the scheme until their credit card companies contacted them, by which time, their FICO scores and credit histories had suffered critical damage. Total losses in the first scheme amounted to approximately \$71,000. In the later scheme, McLaurin stole the personal information of a tenant in a building where McLaurin sometimes stayed. He opened credit card accounts and auto loans in the victim's name and caused losses of approximately \$30,000.

In addition to the prison time, U.S. District Court Judge Bruce Kauffman ordered McLaurin to pay restitution in the amount of \$ 112,156 and to complete three years of supervised release.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Floyd J. Miller.

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